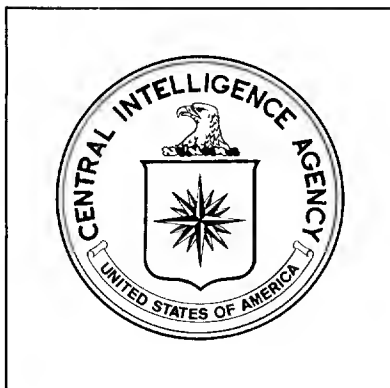


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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

CONTENTS



Mozambique-USSR: Moscow Set to Open Relations	2
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June 2, 1975

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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Mozambique-USSR

Moscow Set to Open Relations

The Soviet Union announced on Sunday that it will establish diplomatic relations with Mozambique on June 25--the day the territory formally gains its independence from Portugal. An agreement to exchange ambassadors was reached last month in Dar es Salaam between the Soviets and representatives of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, which will assume the reins of power following independence.

Moscow was one of the Front's main supporters during its years of guerrilla fighting, and during the past year has shown a strong desire to maintain close ties with Mozambique. Last December, the Soviets promised the Front economic and military aid following independence, and in January made their first direct shipment of arms to the Front. In April, a large Soviet economic delegation visited Beira and Lourenco Marques to study the prospects for future economic aid and cooperation. Formal aid agreements probably will be signed after June 25. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)

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June 2, 1975

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